



3. HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Romans 8:18-25 & 38-39, Romans 12:12
& Psalm 33:22

Key Points:

When we hope, we often rely on the person or thing in which we have placed our hope to come through for us, but Romans 12:12 encourages us to play our part.

- **Rejoice** – not to be happy for your tough situation, but to delight in or experience God's grace. When King David's son by Uriah's wife became sick and died, "he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped" (2 Samuel 12:20)
- **Be patient** – God made a promise to Abraham that he would multiply his offspring "as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore" but he had to wait many years for it to be fulfilled (Genesis 22:17).
- **Pray** – we are asked to be constant in our prayers which is not always easy in times of adversity, but the Spirit will help us (Romans 8:26)

Questions: (e.g.)

Conversation Starter

1. What is the oddest thing you have hoped for?
2. What do you hope for this Christmas?

Start thinking [Get the group thinking around the subject]

3. What would life without hope be like?

Start sharing [Choose a question to create openness]

4. What is the number one thing are you hoping for at the moment?
5. Who or what are you placing your hope in? What is your ladder leaning against?
6. To what extent are you following the Romans 12:12 pattern?

Start praying [Write a short prayer that gets to the heart of 'so what' in your sermon]

7. Lord, during these times when so many things are uncertain, we pray that our hearts may rejoice in Your abundant grace so that we may, with the Spirit's help, rest in You, be constant in prayer and maintain hope in Your steadfast love. (c.f. Psalm 30:56, Psalm 33:56; Romans 5:4)

Start doing [draw out some steps to do (either in the meeting or this week)]

8. 1. When facing a difficult situation this week, take a step back and think who or what you are putting your hope in?
 1. Consider who or what you are leaning your ladder against
 2. Follow the Romans 12:12 pattern: rejoice, be patient, be constant in prayer
 3. Put your hope in the steadfast love of God which is secure, abundant and everlasting